

same spot, when the ants were all disappeared, and the poor flies were seen in a languishing and dying state.

“The little gentleman with surprise, asked what could be the reason, that the ants were all gone, and that the flies appeared in so languishing and miserable a state? His father told him, that the flies were a luxurious and careless brood, who considered only the present moment, without taking any care for the future, and that was the reason he now saw them perishing for want. On the other hand, the ants, of which he saw not a single one, were all now safe in their cells, enjoying at ease the fruits of their summer’s labour; but that, as soon as the warm weather returned, he would see them again, busy as before, preparing against the subsequent winter, which they know will come.”

As soon as Florella had finished reading, Amintor observed, that the moral  
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of this story was very clear: the ants represented those wise people, who, in the midst of plenty, lay up a store against a scarcity. Thus we should, in our youth, lay up some portion of what we then get, to enable us to go through the evening of life more cheerfully. The flies represent those silly and luxurious people, who think not beyond the present moment, waste and squander every thing as fast as they get it, and, in the evening of their lives, are often reduced to misery, want, and beggary.

Mr. Stubbs was very much pleased with Amintor and his sister; the one for reading so prettily, and the other for making so just and sensible an observation thereon. He therefore took leave of our little moralists, having first set them a fresh lesson for them to peruse.

As soon as Mr. Stubbs was gone, the pretty Florella and her brother, having  
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